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UNCLAS OTTAWA 000952

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CANADA: DEMARCHE ON SUPPORT FOR LIBERIAN MILITARY REFORM

REF: SECSTATE 49284

1. Poloff delivered reftel demarche concerning support for Liberian military reform to Louis Hamel, Director of the West/Central Africa Division at Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC), and Simon Snoxell, FAC Desk Officer for Liberia, on March 23. Snoxell subsequently advised poloff on March 31 that Liberia remains a relatively low priority and that the Government of Canada (GoC) has no specific plans at this time for providing assistance to the Liberian military.

2. Poloff also discussed this demarche with Andrew Armstrong, Manager of Fleet Policies and Standards at Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Headquarters, since reftel indicated that the GoC may have a number of 12-15 meter Coast Guard vessels appropriate for coastal patrol use. Armstrong confirmed that the CCG has nine 13.5 meter boats (identical to U.S. Coast Guard 44-foot patrol boats) that are scheduled for retirement. However, he questioned whether these boats would be appropriate for coastal patrols, given their age (30 years), low operating speed, and limited endurance. Continuing, he said that the CCG used these boats primarily for inland surf rescue, and that they were not blue-water capable.

3. Minimize considered.

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DICKSON